United Nations A/69/1013–S/2015/653

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 33
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 20 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 19 August 2015, regarding the latest illegal military activities of the Russian Federation in Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-14217 (E) 080915

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the latest illegal military activities of the Russian Federation in Georgia

Tbilisi, 19 August 2015

On 17 August 2015, the Russian Federation launched large-scale military exercises involving its military bases in the southern military district and the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, which remain under illegal Russian military occupation. Based on the official website of the Russian Defence Ministry, these exercises envisage the use of modern weapon systems such as the Grad-M, Uragan and Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems, the 152-mm and 122-mm self-propelled howitzers Msta-C and D-30, and the self-propelled artillery piece Nona. The exercises are scheduled to continue until 18 September.

Today, the Russian armed forces of the southern military district that are deployed in the North Caucasus and in the occupied Tskhinvali region of Georgia started field exercises using new-generation communications systems. The field exercises currently involve more than 2,000 troops and over 500 pieces of special communications equipment.

In parallel to its military exercises, Russia continues to violate the airspace of Georgia. In particular, on 19 August, at 10.57 a.m., a Russian military MI-8 helicopter entered the airspace of Georgia beyond the occupied territory, from the occupied Khelchua village, and flew over Zardiaantkari village in Gori municipality. After violating Georgian airspace, the helicopter continued towards the occupied town of Akhalgori.

Such actions by the Russian Federation are of a provocative character, and they pose a threat to the peace and stability of the region. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia demands that the Russian Federation comply with the fundamental principles of international law, as well as with the international commitments undertaken by Russia, including under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008, and withdraw all its military forces from the occupied Georgian territories.

At the same time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the international community, in particular the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia and the co-chairs of the Geneva international discussions, to duly assess the activities of Russia directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.